

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 /049 W

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R 261006Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2165

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB ILO EG

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON ILO ACTIVITIES

REF: (A) STATE 03255 (B) STATE 17958 (C) STATE 21062

1. REFTEL REQUESTED EVALUATION OF SPECIFIC ILO ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT FOR LAST TWO YEARS. ALTHOUGH CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT PERMIT US TO MAKE DETAILED INVESTIGATION, WE SUBMIT FOLLOWING IN HOPES DEPT. WILL FIND IT USEFUL AND ARE PREPARED TO ATTEMPT FILL IN SPECIFIC GAPS IN INFO WHEN AND IF DEPT. SO INSTRUCTS.

2. APPROPRIATENESS OF PROJECT OBJECTIVES. WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM FOR EGYPT IS STRUCTURED PRIMARILY AROUND NEEDS EXPRESSED BY GOE. PHILOSOPHY THAT COUNTRY KNOWS ITS OWN DEVELOPMENT NEEDS BETTER THAN ANY OUTSIDE ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN APPLIED REGOROUSLY. AS FAR AS EGYPT CONCERNED, THEN, COUNTRY PROGRAM IS NOT GOOD CRITERION FOR DETERMINING WHETHER PROJECT OBJECTIVES ARE WELL CONSIDERED.

3. WE WOULD ANSWER WITH QUALIFIED YES QUESTION OF APPROPRIATE-NESS IN LIGHT OF COUNTRY'S OWN DEVELOPMENT PLANS. OBSERVERS HERE BELIEVE EGYPT NEEDS SO MUCH ASSISTANCE IN AREAS OF ILO COMPETENCE THAT PRESENT REALTIVELY LOW LEVEL OF A SSSITANCE MAY AS WELL BE APPLIED AS IT IS NOW AS IN SOME OTHER WAY. ADDITIONALLY,

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PLANNING MINISTRY IS FULLY INVOLVED IN PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS OF PROJECTS FOR GOE SUBMISSION TO UNDP. OUR OWN VIEW, IN GENERAL, IS THAT LISTED PROJECTS DO ADDRESS EGYPTIAN NEEDS, ALTHOUGH WE (AND GOE) NOT NOW CAPABLE OF CLEARLY IDENTIFYING AREAS WHICH SHOULD RECEIVE HIGHEST PRIORITY.

4. TRIPARTISM. CONCEPT OF TRIPARTISM IS NOT A FACTOR IN GOE

DESIGN OR DETERMINATION OF PROJECTS TO SUBMIT TO UNDP. EMPLOYERS AFFECTED BY PROJECTS ARE AT PRESENT EXCLUSIVELY STATE CORPORATIONS. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THERE IS NOT SYSTEMATIC CONSULTATION OF EMPLOYERS ORGANIZATIONS AS SUCH. MANAGEMENT'S VIEWS ARE REFLECTED THROUGH CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN COMPANY MANAGEMENT AND MINISTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES. WORKERS ORGANIZATIONS ARE CONSULTED ONLY ON THOSE PROJECTS WHICH CONCERN WORKING CONDITIONS OR WORKER EDUCATION. GOVERNMENT ALONE HAS ROLE IN ALL OTHER AREAS, INCLUDING MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT. WE DOUBT THAT LABOR CONSULTATION WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER PROJECT SELECTION OR EXECUTION SINCE LABOR HAS NO PARTICULAR TECHNICAL COMPETENCE.

5. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT. ILO RESIDENT REP IS HAMED MARAGHI. (HE HAS BEEN ILO CHIEF IN CAIRO FOR MANY YEARS AND IS DEDICATED TO HIS JOB. HE IS ALSO VERY CLOSE TO ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD, ACTING AS A TRUSTED ADVISOR ON ARAB LABOR AFFAIRS IN GENERAL. ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN, HE IS OBJECTIVE IN HIS ANALYSES OF THE LOCAL LABOR SCENE. PLEASE PROTECT WHEN CITED). HE TELLS US THERE HAVE BEEN NO SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES FROM EITHER ILO OR GOE IN TERMS OF ASSIGNMENT OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO PROJECT ACTIVITIES. IN HIS VIEW, EGYPT TO FARR ADVANCED A DEVELOPING NATION TO BE SENT ANY BUT WELL QUALIFIED PERSONNEL. (LESS QUALIFIED ARE SENT, E.G. TO POOR AFRICAN STATES.) IN RARE CASES WHERE ILO EXPERTS HAVE NOT WORKED, RESIDENT REP CLAIMS, HE HAS BEEN ABLE INTERVENE WITH ILO TO HAVE SUBSTITUTES NAMED. GOE HAS ALSO BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE DECENT CALIBER PERSONNEL. OCCASIONALLY, PERSONALITY PROBLEMS BETWEEN FOREIGN AND EGYPTIAN EXPERTS HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COME UP BUT, IN THESE CASES TOO, MARAGHI HAS BEEN ABLE ARRANGE REPLACEMENTS THROUGH EGYPTIAN MINISTRIES. AS NOTED BELOW, ILO HAS OCCASIONALLY BEEN UNABLE FURNISH PERSONNEL ACCORDING TO PROJECT SCHEDULES AND HAS ALSO HAD SOME PROBLEMS WITH TIMELY FINANCING. GOE SUPPORT HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN SATISFACTORY IN MARAGHI'S VIEW.

6. EMPLOYER ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT. ROUND TABLE ON ROLE OF EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS IN ARAB COUNTRIES WAS HELD IN ALEXANDRIA FROM 13-25 OCTOBER 1976. MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY 19 PARTICIPANTS FROM 12 COUNTRIES (EGYPT, BAHRAIN, IRAQ, JORDAN, KUWAIT, MAURITANIA MOROCCO, QATAR, SUDAN, SYRIA, TUNISIA, AND PDRY). OTHER PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED TWO FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF EMPLOYERS, FROM ALO AND SIX FROM ILO. MARAGHI DESCRIBED ROUND TABLE AS PRIMARILY MEDIA EVENT (IT WAS WELL COVERED IN PRESS) OF NEGLIGIBLE BENEFIT. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO CONTRARY.

7. RURAL SECTOR. ILO AND EGYPTIAN INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL PLANNING SIGNED \$30,00 CONTRACT IN OCTOBER 1976 FOR RESEARCH

PROJECT ON PROBLEMS OF POVERTY AND EMPLOYMENT IN EGYPT.
PROJECT INVOLVES SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY IN RURAL
EGYPT BASED ON POLL OF SOME 800 HOUSEHOLDS USING QUESTIONNAIRE
AGREED ON BY ILO AND INP. ILO REP MARAGHI IS SKEPTICAL
THAT PRACTICAL USE IS LIKELY TO BE MADE OF DATA DEVELOPED.
HE SEES IT AS LITTLE MORE THAN RUSE FOR INP TO GET ITS HANDS ON
SOME HARD CURRENCY FOR ITS OWN NEEDS.

8. THERE NO INDICATION THAT EGYPT SHARES ILO VIEW THAT RURAL
SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT PRIORITY.
GOE IS AWARE, HOWEVER, DIMLY, OF ITS NEEDS IN THAT AREA. IT IS
SADDLED, HOWEVER, WITH RELATIVELY WIDE, DETERIORATING INDUSTRIAL
BASE, AND MUST CONCENTRATE LIMITED RESOURCES ON MAKING THIS
SECTOR PRODUCTIVE BEFORE ASSIGNING PRIORITY TO RURAL PROBLEMS.

9. REF B PARA 2(1) EGY 72-009. IDENTIFIED IN REF B AS "VOCATIONAL
TRAINING" , PROJECT IS "ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL DESIGN
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DEVELOPMENT CENTER". THIS IS ACTUALLY A UNIDO PROJECT WITH
LIMITED ILO PARTICIATION, I.E., THE ONE EXPERT NOTED IN REF B.
HE IS EXPERT IN "TOOL PRODUCTION" AND ARRIVED ON SCHEDULE IN
AUGUST '74. ILO PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROJECT GOES BACK TO
1973 WHEN ILO PROJECT EGY-71-004, TOOL, DIE AND HEAT TREATMENT
CENTER WAS FOLDED INTO EGY-72-009. ILO EXPERT MISSION IS TO
EXPAND ACTIVITIES OF CENTER TO INCLUDE TRAINING IN DESIGN AND
PRODUCTION OF TOOLS, PREPARATION OF PROTOTYPE PRODUCTION,
DEVELOPMENT OF MANUFACTURING TECHNIQUES AND PROCESSES FOR DIES,
TOOLS AND FIXTURES. DATA ON PROJECT AGREES WITH THAT LISTED
REF B. TRAINING, IN WHAT SEEM TO BE SOPHISTICATED TECHNIQUES,
HAS NOT YET BEGUN BUT WE UNDERSTAND IT WILL NOT BE HIGH VOLUME.
CENTER WILL FUNCTION ALSO AS NATIOAL INSTITUTION FOR TOOL
PRODUCTION CONSULTANCY. THIS WILL BE USEFUL FUNCTION TO EXTENT
IT LESSENS EGYPPAN DEPENDENCY ON TOOL IMPORTS AND LESSENS
FOREIGN EXCHANGE BURDENS. IN OUR VIEW, HOWEVER, IT TOO
EARLY TO TELL WHETHER PROJECT CAN BE LABELED SUCCESSFUL
FROM VOCATIONAL TRAINING POINT OF VIEW.

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10. EGY 73-038- VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR EGYPTIAN RAILWAYS (PHASE II). THIS PROJECT, FOR WHICH DATA COINCIDES WITH THAT SUPPLIED REF B, IS CONTINUATION OF EGY 64-501. WHICH INVOLVES DEVELOPMENT OF PERMANENT AND COMPLETE TRAINING CAPABILITY FOR EGYPTIAN RAILWAYS. TWO TRAINING SITES, CAIRO AND WARDAN, HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED AS PART OF PROGRAM. COMPLETION OF PROJECT HAS BEEN DEFERRED TO DECEMBER 77, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF INABILITY OF ILO TO PROVIDE FULL COMPLEMENT OF SEVEN EXPERT STAFF ON TIME. CERTAIN PHASES ARE COMPLETE, HOWEVER, AND FACILITIES HAVE THUS FAR TRAINED ABOUT 6000 EMPLOYEES IN SHORT TERM COURSES AND 300 IN LONG TERM (RESIDENT) COURSES. CENTER HAS ALSO BEEN HOLDING NUMEROUS ONSITE TRAINING SESSIONS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY.

11. THIS PROJECT SEEMS TO US ON TARGET IN TERMS OF ITS OBJECTIVES PARTICULARLY BECAUSE PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS MAJOR PROBLEM AREA IN EGYPT AND, JUSTIFIABLY, HAS HIGH GOE PRIORITY. RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION HAS PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY AND EFFECTIVELY. ILO IS GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH RESULTS THUS FAR ALTHOUGH, IN MARAGHI VIEW, TOO MUCH HAS BEEN SPENT ON "LAVISH" FACILITIES. WE WOULD TENTATIVELY CLASSIFY PROJECT AS SUCCESSFUL.

12. EGY 73-014 - (LISTED REF B AS EGY 72-014) CENTRAL TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR INLAND WATER TRANSPORT. DATA COINCIDES WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT LISTED REF B. PROJECT DESIGNED TO ADVISE AND ASSIST GOE IN PLANNING, ORGANIZATION, ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION OF AN

INSTITUTION FOR PERSONNEL IN INLAND WATER TRANSPORT. TWO EXPERTS AND FOUR CONSULTANTS WERE TO PARTICIPATE IN PROJECT BUT ONLY ONE EXPERT WAS ON HAND IN 1976 AND ONLY ONE CONSULTANT ENGAGED, FOR THREE MONTHS PERIOD IN THAT YEAR. PROGRESS HAS BEEN HANDICAPPED BY LACK OF UNDP FUNDS, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS OF CONSULTANT HIRE, AUDIO-VISUAL AND SHIPBOARD TRAINING AIDS, OTHER TRAINING EQUIPMENT, FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AND COURSE EVALUATION EFFECTIVENESS. UNDP IS

EXPECTED TO PROVIDE \$104,730 IN 1977, BUT ACCORDING TO MARAGHI, THESE FUNDS NOT YET DEFINITELY COMMITTED.

13. EGY -73-036 INSTITUTE OF TOURISM AND HOTEL MANAGEMENT ASSISTING GOE IN DEVELOPING AND EXPANDING TRAINING FACILITIES AT MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT AND TOURISM. GOE REQUESTED THAT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION BE POSTPONED FOR NEXT CYCLE OF COUNTRY PROGRAM, DECISION WE QUESTION IN VIEW REAL NEED FOR TOURISM SECTOR DEVELOPMENT, BUT WHICH IS ACADEMIC SINCE UNDP HAS NO FUNDS TO ALLOCATE IN ANY CASE.

14. EGY -73-046- NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LABOR STUDIES. OBJECTIVE IS TO ESTABLISH AN INSTITUTION TO PROVIDE CONSULTATIVE SERVICE TO INDUSTRY AND A FLOW OF INFORMATION TO GOE FROM REGULAR SERIES OF SURVEYS AND FIELD RESEARCH ON EMPLOYMENT, OUTPUT, INCOME AND CONSUMPTION. IN CONTRAST WITH DATA IN REF B, DURATION WOULD BE FIVE YEARS, WITH UNDP PARTICIPATION OF \$43,000 AND GOE CONTRIBUTION OF L.E. 651,213. GOE REQUESTED IMPLEMENTATION DURING 1976, BUT IMPLEMENTATION WILL BE DELAYED INDEFINITELY FOR LACK OF UNDP FUNDS.

15. EGYPT 72-015- MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY. THIS PROJECT WOULD BE CONTINUATION OF EARLIER WORK BY ILO IN SMALL -SCALE INDUSTRY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSULTANCY (EGY 71-005 AND EGY 71-038). PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION DELAYED INDEFINITELY FOR LACK OF UNDP FUNDS.

16. FOLLOWING WERE NOT LISTED AMONG PROJECTS REFTEL: REM-71-A286--- ARAB MARITIME TRANSPORT ACADEMY, ALEXANDRIA. THIS IS A REGIONAL PROJECT UNDERTAKEN BY IMCO (INTERGOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION) OF LONDON AND UNCTAD, WITH ILO PARTICIPATION BY ONE EXPERT INSTRUCTOR IN SPECIALIZED SEAMAN TRAINING.

17. (NO CODE ASSIGNED). PROJECT OF A.R.E. TO INTRODUCE MODERN TECHNIQUES FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING. ILO AGREED IN JAN 76 TO BECOME EXECUTING AGENCY FOR THIS PROJECT, WHICH IS FUNDED BY FRG WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ITS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT. FRG CONTRIBUTING \$250,000.

18. LONG TERM OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT ARE TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND TO MAKE TRAINING MORE RELEVANT TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN EGYPT. THIS IS TO BE DONE BY PROVIDING ADVANCED TRAINING TO SENIOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND TEACHING TECHNIQUES. EMPHASIS IS ON TEXTILE, CONSTRUCTION, AND ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONIC INDUSTRY. PROJECT IS SCHEDULED TO LAST TWENTY MONTHS DURING WHICH ILO WILL FURNISH ONE EXPERT

IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING SYSTEMS DESIGN, ONE CONSULTANT FAMILIAR

WITH TEXTILE INDUSTRY AND ONE CONSULTANT CIVIL ENGINEER
FAMILIAR WITH BUILDING CONSTRUCTION. AT INTERVALS,
APPROPRIATE CONSULTANCY SERVICES IN COORDINATION AND ADMIN-
ISTRATION WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED. THE FIRST EXPERT ARRIVED IN
DECEMBER, 1976; THE PROJECT IS STILL ONLY IN PRELIMINARY STAGE.

19. WE SEE NO REASON, AT THIS POINT, WHY PROJECT SHOULD NOT BE
SUCCESSFUL. IT IS RESPONSIVE TO REAL EGYPTIAN NEEDS, ESPECIALLY

SINCE VOCATIONAL TRAINING APPROACH IS PRESENTLY DIFUSE AND
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SHOULD BE RATIONALIZED. PROBLEMS WILL COME LATER, IN FORM
OF TRADITIONAL EGYPTIAN DIFFICULTY IN MAKING EFFICIENT USE
OF SKILL POOLS ALREADY EXISTING WITHIN IN BUREAUCRACIES.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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